30.12.94 for Exploration of Oil and gas in the block CY-OS-90/1 in Cauvery offshore basin between Government of India, ONGC, HOEC, India, Vaalco Energy Inc. USA and Tata Petrodyne of India.

(c) The contract is of Production sharing type with contract period in case of crude oil and associated gas of upto 25 years. The contractor is exempted from payment of bonuses and statutory levies. The Government of India has the first right of refusal in respect of oil produced under the contract and companies would be paid for their share of oil at international price. ONGC has taken a 10% participating interest in the venture at the exploration stage and has the option to take a further 30% interest at the development stage. Provisions also exist for development of commercially exploitable natural gas resources.

Indo-Oman joint commission meet

496. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Omanese delegation which visited New Delhi recently in connection with the Indo-Oman Joint Commission meet expressed certain doubts and apprehensions about the feasibility and availability of the requisite gas reserve;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The meeting of the Indo-Oman Joint Commission scheduled to be held in January 1995 had to be postponed.

Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline

497. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a change both in the landfall site of Oman and India for the Oman-India gas pipeline, if so, the locations thereof and the consequential changes in the project;

(b) whether pipes required have been tested and manufacturing commenced, if so, by whom and under what conditions; and

(c) by when is the construction work going to commence and the total cash involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The feasibility study for the Oman-India pipeline has been taken up by the Oman Oil Company. Details such as the landfall point, testing of pipes, commencement of construction etc. will be decided when the feasibility study is complete. The Oman Oil Company has indicated that the investment in the project will be around USD 5 billion.

Cess on petroleum products

498. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount has been collected by Government by levying cess on different petroleum products every year;

(b) if so, details thereof, product-wise, and the total collection made since levy, till the current financial year;

(c) whether such collections have been from all States and Union Territories;